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5D-42

5 March 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR: EXECUTIVE

SUBJECT: Radio Stations for Military Attaches

THE PROBLEM

1. To determine the actual savings that would accrue to the Intelligence Division if radio stations were established for American diplomatic missions wherever politically practicable, with State and Navy paying proportions of the cost.

FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM

2. In a report on a visit to certain Attache offices in the fall of 1947, [redacted] stated that both Military Attaches and Chiefs of Missions were unanimous in desiring to establish American radio stations by joint arrangements between State, Navy and Army.

3. Military Attaches and Chiefs of Missions in Syria, Lebanon and Egypt believed that permission for establishment of stations could be obtained from respective local governments.

4. The allotments to Military Attaches at these stations for signal service in the first half of the Fiscal Year 1948 were: Syria - \$2,750.00; Lebanon - \$3,180.40 and Egypt - \$2,001.81.

5. Plans and Policy Division, Office of the Chief Signal Officer, estimated cost of suitable equipment at \$5,000 per station and salary for civil service operators @ \$4,324 per year (\$3,458 plus 25%).

6. Necessary equipment is not available in the category of surplus. If Army equipment were used, it would have to be replaced in stock.

DISCUSSION

7. It is assumed that it is desired to establish radio stations in Syria, Lebanon, and Egypt with the full approval of the local governments. This presupposes that the local governments would grant permission for installation and operation in spite of present U.S. law which prohibits reciprocal privileges and in spite of animosity aroused by U.S. support of the partition of Palestine.

8. The CSO estimates equipment and installation cost for a suitable station at \$5,000. From informal discussion it is believed that CSO would insist that equipment be purchased.

9. If the

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9. If the stations were to operate as embassy stations, it is considered that they would have to be set up for twenty-four hour operation or at least full-time "watch" status. The minimum number of operators should be three. Salary for three civil service operators would approximate \$13,000 per year. Operators furnished by the Army could be either civilian or military personnel. Availability of military operators would be more limiting than pay.

10. Traffic from the embassy stations could be handled without further cost to ID once delivered to an ACAN terminal. Nearest ACAN terminals are Asmara and Frankfurt. Facilities from either of these points to Washington are believed ample to handle embassy traffic from Syria, Lebanon, and Egypt. Of the two ACAN stations, Frankfurt is the more permanent. However, to keep equipment at the local stations within reason, it would probably be necessary to relay to Frankfurt through the Greek Mission station. This is a hand-operated station and additional traffic would require additional equipment and personnel. Transmission over land to Asmara would be more difficult than over water to Greece, and equipment and personnel would have to be added to handle additional incoming traffic at Asmara.

11. A consideration of the cost of establishing stations at the embassies should include the cost of additional equipment and personnel at receiving or relay points. This cost is impossible to estimate accurately without a more detailed survey, but should not be more than the cost of the originating station. Technical arrangements such as "netting" several embassy stations might reduce this element of cost considerably.

12. In summary, the cost of setting up a cooperative station in any of the countries mentioned could be expected to approximate \$10,000 for the installation and \$26,000 annually for salary of operators.

13. Such stations would probably result in significant savings to the U.S. Government. Col. Lanterman estimated that communication costs for State, Army and Navy from Cairo were \$19,000 per quarter; \$76,000 per year. A radio station might be set up and operated for a year on \$36,000. How much of this saving would accrue to ID would depend on the method of apportioning costs. The great bulk of the messages sent from diplomatic missions is State Department traffic. Amounts allotted to MAs in Syria, Lebanon and Egypt for communication charges are only a little more than enough to pay the salary of one civilian operator.

CONCLUSIONS

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15. The installation and operation of radio stations at American embassies in Syria, Lebanon and Egypt appears to offer substantial savings in communication costs for the mission as a whole.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Intelligence Division contact the State Department with a view to encouraging State to initiate planning for cooperative stations.

H.E.P.

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